

political cooperation between our two countries. Among other things, the U.S. side regularly presses the government of Kazakhstan to improve its human rights record and undertake economic and political reforms.

I understand that U.S. officials pressed the Kazakh side especially hard this year, because of international criticism of parliamentary elections that were held last October, heightened corruption, and an acceleration of abusive action taken against opponents of President Nazarbayev's government. In an apparent move to blunt the severity of U.S. pressure as the Joint Commission meeting approached, President Nazarbayev reportedly issued a statement on November 4th, 1999 saying that he was ready to cooperate with the opposition in Kazakhstan and that he would welcome the return of former Prime Minister Akhezan Kazhegeldin, the exiled leader of the main opposition party.

On November 19th, Mr. Kazhegeldin responded to President Nazarbayev by calling for a "national dialogue" to examine ways to advance democracy, economic development and national reconciliation in Kazakhstan. Mr. Kazhegeldin pointed out that convening a national dialogue would be an ideal way to initiate cooperation between the opposition and the government.

President Nazarbayev, however, has reacted with silence to Mr. Kazhegeldin's proposal and a court reportedly convicted an opposition leader for having the temerity to criticize Nazarbayev's government. Finally, investment disputes with foreign companies that have lost millions of dollars because the government failed to honor its commitments remain unresolved and an investigation and trial seem to have failed to find anyone to blame for the delivery last year of 40 MiG fighter aircraft from Kazakhstan to North Korea.

Mr. Speaker, the cause of freedom and democracy in Kazakhstan appears to be in jeopardy. Our government should consider supporting a national dialogue along the lines proposed by former Prime Minister Kazhegeldin. At the very least, the government of Kazakhstan should make an hour of state-controlled television available every week for the use by the opposition. For its part the U.S. should also assist the democratic opposition by providing printing presses to replace those that have been confiscated by the government. It is time to stand up for democracy in Kazakhstan.

**HONORING THE RECIPIENT OF THE
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD, BILL PETTY**

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce has named the recipient of the 1999 Lifetime Achievement Award, Bill Petty.

Bill is a respected business leader who has had a substantial positive impact on the overall quality of life in Grand Junction, Colorado. He has focused time, energy and resources

by serving on business organizations such as the Chamber Board, Downtown Development Authority Board and most recently the Western Colorado Business Development Corporation. Bill has also served on the St. Mary's Foundation Board and the St. Mary's Hospital Board since 1996. Bill became President of Norwest Banks, Grand Junction in 1992. He has also had a commitment to the arts by serving on the Western Colorado Center for the Arts Board, the Avalon Board of Directors and the Colorado Public Radio.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer this tribute to a valued member of the Grand Junction community and a close personal friend, Bill Petty. He is committed to making his community a better place to live.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF HELENA ASHBY

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the March 31st retirement of Chief Helena Ashby, the first female Division Chief in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Chief Ashby began her work with the Sheriff's Department in 1964 absent a role model; 36 years later, she is herself a role model for women and African Americans. Her leadership and dedication will be missed.

During her tenure with the Sheriff's Department, Ms. Ashby has also commanded the Detective Division, as well as the Court Services Division. She spent five years as a Commander within Field Operations Region II and the Detective Division and has served as Captain of the Juvenile Investigations Bureau, Court Services West, Sybil Brand Institute for Women, and Personnel Bureau of the Administrative Division.

Chief Ashby holds degrees from the University of Southern California and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy and the National Interagency Counterdrug Institute.

The demands of her work in the Sheriff's Department have not precluded Ms. Ashby from establishing herself as a leader in the Los Angeles community. She sits on the Board of Directors of the Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County, the Coro Foundation, and the Association of Independent Colleges of Southern California. Her contributions to the community have been recognized by the Soroptimist Club, the YWCA, and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.

Chief Ashby has said of the Sheriff's Department that "Most of us leave here a better person than when we arrived." In Helena Ashby's case, her positive influence will also leave the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department a better place than when she arrived.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, February 29, 2000 I had to delay my return to the Capitol in order to attend to personal business in my district. During my absence, I missed rollcall vote 26.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the Indian Tribal Economic Development and Contract Encouragement Act (S. 613).

**HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
RONALD L. GUTSHALL AS CHIEF
OF THE RESCUE FIRE COMPANY
NO. 1 IN HARRISBURG, PA**

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. Ronald L. Gutshall on the announcement of his retirement as Chief of the Rescue Fire Company No. 1 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Gutshall has been an esteemed member of the Rescue Fire Company No. 1 since 1960. Since then, he has continually, selflessly, and honorably served and protected the citizens of Susquehanna Township in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. At the start of Mr. Gutshall's career, he immediately began proving his leadership qualities, commanding skills, expertise, and willingness to ascend professionally. By 1964 he successfully attained the rank of Lieutenant and Assistant Chief. A year later, the Rescue Fire Company No. 1 elected Mr. Gutshall to his first term as Fire Chief, a truly remarkable accomplishment in such a short period of time. Mr. Gutshall remained as Chief from 1970 until the announcement of his retirement on January 18, 2000.

Throughout his career, Mr. Gutshall has not only served and protected the citizens of Susquehanna Township from the disastrous forces of nature, but also served administratively in the Rescue Fire Company's office. Since 1962, Mr. Gutshall has served as Treasurer, in efforts to maintain and ensure the future financial security and prosperity of the Rescue Fire Company. Mr. Gutshall was also instrumental in the acquisition of the Township Fire Tax which helped provide all the Township Fire Companies with state of the art fire equipment to sustain and assure the protection and safety of the employees.

Mr. Gutshall has led his career and company with compassion. He upholds and preserves the tradition of volunteer service and commitment, a vital part of community functions. He instructs and educates members in the highest moral and ethical values which is proven in their discipline and attitudes. My Gutshall has been a tremendous mentor too all those who have worked beside him, a hero to those who know him, and teacher to both the fire services and county.